



The Beacon

A monthly newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club serving Central Virginia

Celebrating our 51st Year

February

2014

Our next AARC meeting is set for February 11 at 7:30 pm. The meeting will convene at the NRAO. During the February meeting Mike McPherson will be our featured speaker and will present a program related to ARES.



This is the club leadership elected at the Annual Meeting in January. They are: (l to r) Jim Wilson-K4BAV Public Relations Director, Bill Pond-N0WP Technical Director, Jim Crosby-K4JEC Education Director, Jim Owen-K4CGY President, A.J. Miller-KE4AJM Fundraising Director, Mike Elliott-K4WDV Secretary and Don Eason, Jr-N4UVA Treasurer. Missing from the photo were: Dayton Haugh-AA4DH Estate Director and Joe Flamini-W4BXG Public Services Director. They assume office immediately upon being elected. In that there was no candidate for the office of vice president and the past vice president has resigned, the board will elect a vice president at the February Meeting. (Photo by Pat Crosby K4PMC)



Past President Bob Patison-K4DU passed the gavel to the newly elected president, Jim Owen-K4CGY, immediately following the elections at the January Annual Meeting. (Photo by Jim Crosby K4JEC)



Bill Arnold K4IB and Mike McPherson KQ9P (above) presented their program on Kick SAT's at the last meeting. (Photo by Jim Wilson K4BAV)

President's Corner

By Jim Owen – K4CGY

As I sit here ruminating over what to write and trying to come up with a good title—I decided that “The Eagle has Landed” had already been used someplace so just go with the above—and also trying to operate the ARRL VHF contest at the same time might not be the best choices. The old ionosphere has once again not been up to snuff the last two days. Twenty hours into the contest I have eleven stations in the log, none in the local area, where are you? Therefore I have plenty of time to think between contacts. This electronic logging is great, gives me all kinds of charts plus dupes if any and puts it all in proper format to send to Headquarters five minutes after the contest. It was not always so, in my early years there were paper logs, dupe sheets (remember those) scratch pads and such. Computers were not in the shack nor were transceivers unless you were really rich and could afford a Collins KWM-1. In fact there were only vacuum tube rigs as transistors had not yet had much impact. Drift was a fact of life and we were happy if the rigs drifted less than 10 KC (that's right KC, “hurts” KHz had not yet been invented) per hour. Actually 50 cycles a minute drift was about normal. No DSP only LC filters (unless you were rich then you might have a crystal) where narrow bandwidth was maybe 750 KC. No spotting nets, you scanned the band from one end to the other. If you had a novice license you had one or two crystals and when calling CQ you tuned the WHOLE band looking for an answer. Likely the way you switched from transmit to receive was throw the knife switch on which the antenna was connected, turn the mute knob on the receiver to mute and switch the transmitter to transmit, not a quick operation.

Talking about license, you had to be proficient in CW at least to 5 WPM for a novice and 13 WPM for a General. You also had to take a theory test in which you didn't have the answers published (you had to KNOW the subject); you had to draw schematics of a circuit and maybe give the nominal values of each part. I think it's much easier now days. The average novice likely ran a BC-455/457 army surplus receiver with an ARC-5 transmitter and the ones that had a bit more money, a Heathkit DX-20 or maybe DX-40. Two meters was really two meters on the front panel to most of us. Only the really technical guys played around on two meters and above. We've come a long ways in the last 55 years and I think too many of us now get stuck in a rut. It seems that too many get the Tech license and stay on the repeaters. You guys get with it and upgrade, it's easier than 55 years ago and I did it at 15. The repeaters are great for keeping us locals informed and for doing the local communications that we need, but 90% of the fun is operating on the other bands and modes. Try DXing on 10-160 meters, PSK or RTTY (RTTY use to be with teletype model 17 mechanical printers) once again we've come a long ways. Try contesting on the HF bands or even on VHF. Build an antenna for 30 meters or a loop for 160 meters.

Get involved with education and become a VE. We need to look into how to get more young people into Ham radio. Maybe approach the schools and discuss possible radio clubs

or even giving classes at the schools. At least figure some way to poll the students to see how many might be interested.

So in summary, whether you're a Tech, General or Extra get on the air with a different mode or band other than that you normally operate. Build something, help the club by joining some committee, help finding young folks that don't know what ham radio is about and in the process you will learn something you didn't know. And if we all do this and succeed, then in essence “The Eagle has Landed”.

Jim Owen K4CGY

Minutes of AARC Board of Directors Meeting of January 14, 2014 at 7 pm

1. Call to Order President Bob K4DU
 - a. A list of the officers and committee chairs present for the board meeting: Teri Henderson KY4UO, Don Eason N4UVA, Bob Pattison K4DU, Jim Owen K4CGY, Jim Crosby K4JEC, Michael Rein KA4JJD, Bill Pond, N0WP, Jim Wilson, K4BAV, and Bill Phillips, AD6JV
2. Call for comments or items from Committees
 - a. Public Service – Joe Flaminni, W4BXG none, not present
 - b. Estate Committee – Dayton Haugh, AA4DH none, not present
 - c. Technical Committee– Bill Pond, N0WP Full report listed in Club Minutes. he wants to spend money and will detail and ask for approval at the meeting.
 - d. Education Committee – Bill Phillips, AD6JV Science Fair - he is chairman x10 years, and it is time for someone else to do this.
 - e. Fund-raising Committee – Michael Rein, KA4JJD no report for the board, waiting for the meeting
 - f. Public Relations – Jim Wilson, K4BAV no report for the board, waiting for the meeting
3. Old Business - none
4. New Business

Thank you to Bob for service as president, moved by Michael Rein, KA4JJD and applauded by all.
5. Board Meeting Adjourned at 7:15

Minutes of the November AARC Meeting – November 12, 2013

1. The President Bob call the meeting to order and asked for a round of introductions of those present. He than introduced the program – Bill Arnold K4IB and Mike McPherson KQ9P – Kick SAT's Following the Program
2. Bob called the Annual Meeting to order at 8:04
3. Secretary's Report –

a. Secretary asks for modifications or approval of meeting minutes

Michael Rein, KA4JJD moved

AJ Miller KE4AJM seconded. passed

b. Secretary presented an application for a new member.

Cotellessa, Joseph KI4ISX

Dave Damon K4DND moved and AJ Miller KE4AJM seconded. passed

4. Treasurer's Report

November and December consolidated:

Bal. 11/01/2013 \$7,689.49

Debits \$4,149.66

Credits \$2,264.72

Ending Bal 12/31/2013: \$5,804.55

5. Vice Presidents Report - none, not present

6. Committee Reports

a. Public Service – Joe Flaminni, W4BXG – none, not present.

b. Estate Committee – Dayton Haugh, AA4DH - none, not present

c. Technical Committee– Bill Pond, N0WP

Summary:

1. replace batteries at Marshall Manor and replace the charger \$350

2. replace receiver module on 220 at Bulks Elbow \$230

3. buy real time clock for spare controller and a 2 part delay module at Marshall Manor

4. as of last week the 925 on Herd Mtn is linked Items so far total \$700.

Jim Crosby moved the first items of \$700 be approved, seconded and the motion carried.

5. remote base at MJH - do we need to maintain it?

6. 2 sites have old repeaters and need to be replaced: 440 @ MJH (\$800) and 2m repeater at Herd Mtn (\$1200)

Details submitted by Bill Pond:

In 2014 and beyond, on behalf of the technical committee, I would like to consider the following changes and expenditures. These are listed more or less in priority order.

First priority:* Install new batteries and proper charging apparatus at Marshall Manor. Cost approximately \$350.*

Replace 224.760 receiver at Buck's Elbow site. Cost approximately \$250, but much of this will be recovered by selling the current Alinco transceiver.* Purchase additional RTC module for current ?spare? Arcom repeater controller. Cost: \$50.00 plus shipping* Obtain 2 port Audio Delay module for Marshall Manor. This will eliminate ?extra? squelch tail on 146.760 when traffic originates from either 146.895 or 146.925. Cost about \$65.00 plus shipping

Approximate total cost for all the above is \$700.00

Second priority* Resolve remote base issue at MJH. This could require either the purchase and modification of a new Kenwood TM-281 or the repair of one of the existing TM-271s. Cost should not exceed approximately \$150.00

Third priority* We should plan for the replacement of two of our

most obsolete repeaters. I propose we consider replacing one this year, and the other in 2015. Cost for each would be in the \$1000. Range. o The 444.250 repeater at MJH is totally obsolete, and needs to be replaced. We have the offer of a very nice Vertex VXR7000 from KF4UCI. The cost will be in the range of \$800.o The 146.925 at Herd Mt. is functioning, but is very old and should be updated. We have the offer of a very nice current model Motorola VHF repeater from WW4GW for something in the range of \$1200. If we purchased this machine, I'd propose installing it at Marshall Manor, and using the Vertex VXR5000 from there to replace Herd Mountain's obsolete Icom machine. d. Education Committee – Bill Phillips, AD6JV
Upcoming Science Fair: March 12. Effective program, AARC needs to participate. Invitation to take over the project. Will need a chair for this as well as judges.

e. Fund-raising Committee – Michael Rein, KA4JJD
The Fund Raising Committee deeply appreciates the following members of the AARC, who donated items to the 2013 raffles: W4MBW, W4XBG, W2PVY, N0WP, KT4UO, KQ9P, KJ4XZ, KF4UCI, KF4AGT, KA4JJD, K4RKA, K4DU, K4DND, K4CGY

The Fund Raising Committee is pleased to offer the following items for the raffle at the January Meeting.

GRAND PRIZE:

Yet another Elmer Scott (K4UCI) Special. Motorola Radius 2M, 45 WATTS. Programed with all local 2M repeaters, including the ever-popular 146.730. Break through those pileups on the NPEN!!! Participate in ARES!!! These things seem to be reproducing in my basement. However, we are approaching the real end of the supply, so get 'em while you can.

METER MANIA:

Avoid smoke tests. The unexamined circuit is not worth building.

Kenwood SW-2100 SWR and Power Meter. Second Grand Prize. Measures forward power up to 2 KW. Really beautiful and excellent addition to anyone's shack. Don't blow your finals. Street value: \$80. Donated by K4DND.

EICO Model 232 VTVM. Analog. Measure it all. Large scale (for those whose vision is failing). Does not include probes. Street value could not, however, be measured. Donated by K4RKA.

Triplet Mighty Might VOM. Multirange: Ohms, AC volts, DC volts. Does not include probes. Made by the highly respected Triplett Electrical Instrument Company, founded in 1904 and bought out by Jewell Instruments in 2007. Joe W2PVY probably used some of this equipment. Street value \$20. Originally sold (when?) for \$34.50. Hey, the manual alone sold for \$0.25. Old, but then, Ohm's law hasn't changed. Donated my KA4JJD.

Weston Model 280 multi-range voltage meter (150, 60, 3). Beautiful. They don't make 'em like they used to. Donated by K4DND.

Simpson DC Voltage meter (5V range). Mounted on a fabulous base. Street value \$10. Donated by K4DND.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael,
KA4JJD

f. Public Relations – Jim Wilson, K4BAV
Frostfest Feb 1; the club has 3 tables; workers are requested.

8. New Business

a. Election of Officers and Directors

i. Nominating Committee to present the slate

President: Jim Owen k4cgy
vp: none slated by nominating committee
secretary: Mike Elliot K4WDV
Treasurer: Don Eason n4uva
PR committee: Jim Wilson K4BAV
Technical Committee: Bill Pond N0WP
Estate: Dayton Haugh AA4DH
Public Service: Joe Flamini W4BXG
Education: Jim Crosby K4JEC
Fundraising: AJ Miller KE4AJM

ii. Nominations from the floor
needed for VP; Mike Rein moved to table VP AJ seconded
passed

Don Eason n4uva moved current nominating committee not
be dissolved
seconded by k4tuo
motion to table until after the elections passed

iii. Election & Installation of Officers
moved all slate by Joe Giovanelli w2pvv
secretary cast a single ballot
New board takes over
Jim Owen k4cgy - has 2 items for sale from estate

tabled motion:
current nominating committee not be dissolved
untabling of nominating committee
vote on extension of the nominating committee
passed

Jim k4cgy would like a Ten Minute Tip Topic at each
meeting. Offered it for consideration and will pass on to the
VP we don't have.

b. Is there a motion concerning dues? none mentioned

9. Adjourn (NLT 9:00 PM)

Classified Item Listing

To place an item in the Classified Listings just send an
email to k4rka@juno.com

NEW ITEMS & MOST RECENT LISTINGS as of
1/25/2014
FOR SALE: MA-40 US Tower 40 foot tower
posted 11/30/2013

US Tower MA-40 mast...two section
US Tower Rotor plate and 6' long pipe that its into the top of
the MA-40 Mast
Two coax rings to hold the coax to the mast when
raising/lowering and when raised.
Approximately 6 Ft. Base unit with 1/2" steel plate to mount
to a concrete foundation - with template
12VDC winch and cables to raise and lower the entire mast
which pivots down to the ground.
Asking \$1000 on eBay or best offer...value to over \$3000 if
purchased new.
Will consider any reasonable offer from a local ham.
Weighs about 250# for the mast and another 50# for the base
unit.
Will deliver for \$1.50 per loaded mile.
Thanks,
Marty Wangberg <marty_wangberg@yahoo.com>

=====

FOR SALE - W4RAE estate sale items posted
11/27/3013
contact Bob Pattison, K4DU at rep4@aol.com

Bird 611 vhf/uhf dummy load & watt meter (60/15w scales)
5w scale reads high \$50.00
Conar model 211 VTVM works \$25.00
Weller TC-202 Soldering Station works \$20.00

=====

FOR SALE - W4RAE estate sale items
contact Jim Owen, K4CGY at k4cgy@yahoo.com

KLM 70CM SSB/CW Transceiver 432/435 only
works 6w/3w on CW \$20.00
Syntest Freq. Synthesizer .1-16Mhz Si-102/015 works
square wave output \$20.00
Eico 1100 Resistor Decade Box ok \$5.00
HP Oscillator Model 200CD works
\$25.00
B&K Model 606 tube tester works w/chart
\$50.00
Industrial Instruments Model 1A resistor decade box works
accurate \$7.00
Heathkt Harmonic Distortion Analyzer works needs
cleaning \$20.00

=====

FOR SALE - W4RAE estate sale items
contact Marty Wangberg at marty_wangberg@yahoo.com

Yaesu FT-901DM SSB HF Transceiver works 901
package \$350 tot W4MBW
Yaesu FTV-901R VHF/UHF Transverter 901
package W4MBW
Yaesu FV-901DM Scanning VFO 901
package W4MBW
Yaesu Speaker w/901
package W4MBW

Yaesu Mike (4 pin) package W4MBW

w/901

FOR SALE - W4RAE estate sale items revised 1/25/2014 contact Ron Richey, K4RKA at wb4rbw@embarqmail.com

Clough-Brengle 282A sweep audio generator works \$30.00 K4RKA

Eico 324 RF signal generator w/400hz modulation works \$20.00 K4RKA

GR Impedance Bridge type 1650-A w/manual, looks new. w/manual \$50

HP 5226B counter, prob 50Mhz as a guess. seems to work ok. make offer.

HP 5245L w/5253 50-500 MHz freq converter. needs a little mechanical work on prescaler knob & dial but basic counter seems to function. not sure about prescaler yet. make offer HP 1kHx - 150 MHz Amplifier model 461A. found on eBay from \$25-\$65. \$10

Kepeco ABC 30-0.3 variable voltage, variable current limit power supply. works. \$20

The Beacon

The Beacon is the official newsletter of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, Inc. It will strive to communicate with, enlighten, and entertain the members of the club in strict compliance with the official word of the club as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The newsletter shall be published monthly on or before the 1st day of the month of issue. The deadline for submissions shall be the 25th of the month preceding the month of publication. The primary role of the publication shall be to promote upcoming activities, report past activities and accomplishments of the club and its members, carry the minutes of the preceding month's meetings, as well as, become a recorded history of the club by the archival of all past issues.

Copyright 2013 AARC Inc.

Articles appearing in The Beacon may be quoted with attribution. Being a publication of an IRS 501 (C) (3) educational organization, The Beacon may occasionally use copyrighted material under the Fair Use Provisions of Copyright Law. Copyright notices must be respected.

Jim Crosby K4JEC – Editor
Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Post Office Box 6833
Charlottesville, VA 22906
www.albemarleradio.org

The End

